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## Dedication

Lambert Ben Freund, Henry Ledyard Goddard University Professor and Professor of Engineering at Brown University, became 60 years of age on November 23, 2002. In recognition of his more than 35 years of distinguished contributions to teaching, research, and his leadership in the field of Solid Mechanics, a special symposium on *Dynamic Failure and Thin Film Mechanics* was held from January 16 to 18, 2003 at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA. His many students, colleagues, and friends from around the world joined his family in a tribute to the venerable record of scientific excellence he has established. Invited speakers were asked to submit papers based on their lectures at the symposium to the *Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids*, which generously agreed to publish this special issue marking the occasion. A copy of the complete *Dynamic Failure and Thin Film Mechanics* program appears in this issue.

This issue is dedicated to Ben Freund, whom we hold in high esteem. We would like to thank him for his prolific and outstanding contributions to the fields of dynamic fracture and thin films, and for his mentorship, dedication, friendship, and integrity, which have inspired and affected all who have known him. We wish him continued success both in his professional and personal endeavors for years to come.

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